

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A cover for a module of fibrous material, consisting of:
 - a top member;
 - a first side wall member defining a first gap approximately at a midpoint of the first side wall member;
 - a second side wall member defining a second gap approximately at a midpoint of the second side wall member;
 - first and second end wall members;
 - a channel extending around the cover lengthwise along [at] a bottom edge of the first [and second] end wall member, [members and] a bottom edge of the first [and second] side wall member [members], a bottom edge of the second end wall member, and a bottom edge of the second side wall member, said channel being interrupted by said first gap and said second gap,
 - a first support strap at an approximate midpoint of the first side wall member at a spaced distance beneath the top member and within the first gap;
 - a second support strap at an approximate midpoint of the second side wall member at a spaced distance beneath the top member and within the second gap;
 - a securing strap having first and second ends and running through the channel, said securing strap supported by the first and second support straps as it passes through the first and second gaps, wherein each of the first and second support straps provide no more than one point of contact between the securing strap and the first and second support straps on respective sides of the module, thereby optimizing relocation of forces on the cover to enhance the cover's ability to withstand peak wind conditions; and
 - a fastening mechanism [buckle] securing the first and second ends of the securing strap.

2. (Original) The cover for a module of fibrous material as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said first and second support straps each comprise a piece of elongated fabric folded to form a loop and secured to the cover and wherein said securing strap passes through said loop.

3. (Original) The cover for a module of fibrous material as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said first and second support straps each comprise a piece of elongated fabric folded to form a loop and secured to the cover and a ring secured within said loop and wherein the securing strap passes through said ring.

4. (Original) The cover for a module of fibrous material as set forth in Claim 3, wherein said first and second support straps are each folded to form a diamond shape.

5. (Original) The cover for a module of fibrous material as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said first and second side wall members each comprise a pair of generally triangular sections separated by the first and second gaps, respectively.

6. (Original) The cover for a module of fibrous material as set forth in Claim 5, wherein each triangular section of the first side wall extends from an opposite corner of the first side wall toward the first gap and wherein each triangular section of the second side wall extends from an opposite corner of the second side wall toward the second gap.

7. (Currently amended) A cover for a module of fibrous material, consisting of:
a top member;
a first side wall member defining a first gap approximately at a midpoint of the first side wall member;
a second side wall member defining a second gap approximately at a midpoint of the second side wall member;
first and second end wall members;
a channel extending around the cover along [at] a bottom edge of the first [and second] end wall member, [members and] a bottom edge of the first [and second] side wall member

[members], a bottom edge of the second end wall member, and a bottom edge of the second side wall member, said channel being interrupted by said first gap and said second gap,

a first support strap at an approximate midpoint of the first side wall member at a spaced distance beneath the top member and within the first gap, said first support strap formed by a piece of elongated fabric folded to form a first diamond-shaped loop and secured to the cover and a first ring secured within the loop;

a second support strap at an approximate midpoint of the second side wall member at a spaced distance beneath the top member and within the second gap, said first and second support straps each comprise a piece of elongated fabric folded to form a second diamond-shaped loop and secured to the cover and a second ring secured within the loop;

a securing strap having first and second ends and running through the channel, said securing strap supported by the first and second rings as it passes through the first and second gaps, wherein each of the first and second support straps provide no more than one point of contact between the securing strap and the first and second support straps on respective sides of the module, thereby optimizing relocation of forces on the cover to enhance the cover's ability to withstand peak wind conditions; and

a fastening mechanism [buckle] securing the first and second ends of the securing strap.

8. (Currently amended) A method of securing a cover to a module of fibrous material having a top, first and second sides and first and second end, comprising the steps of:

placing a cover over the module with said cover encompassing the top of the module and at least a portion of the first and second sides and first and second ends;

threading a securing strap through a channel in the cover and through first and second support straps on the cover located at the approximate midpoint of the first and second sides of the module, wherein each of said first and second support straps provide no more than one point of contact between the securing strap and the first and second support straps on respective sides of the module, thereby optimizing relocation of forces on the cover to enhance the cover's ability to withstand peak wind conditions; and

tightening the securing strap about the module.

9. (Currently amended) A cover for a module of fibrous material, consisting of:

a top member;

a first side wall member;

a second side wall member;

first and second end wall members;

a channel extending around the cover along [at] a bottom edge of the first [and second] end wall member, [members and] a bottom edge of the first [and second] side wall member, [members] a bottom edge of the second end wall member, and a bottom edge of the second side wall member;

a first support strap at an approximate midpoint of the first side wall member;

a second support strap at an approximate midpoint of the second side wall member;

a securing strap having first and second ends and running through the channel, said securing strap supported by the first and second support straps, where the first and second support straps provide no more than one point of contact between the securing strap and each of the first and second support straps on their respective sides of the module, thereby optimizing relocation of forces on the cover to enhance the cover's ability to withstand peak wind conditions.

10. (Original) The cover for a module of fibrous material as set forth in Claim 9, wherein said first and second support straps each comprise a piece of elongated fabric folded to form a loop and secured to the cover and wherein said securing strap passes through said loop.

11. (Original) The cover for a module of fibrous material as set forth in Claim 9, wherein said first and second support straps each comprise a piece of elongated fabric folded to form a loop and secured to the cover and a ring secured within said loop and wherein the securing strap passes through said ring.

12. (Original) The cover for a module of fibrous material as set forth in Claim 11, wherein said first and second support straps are each folded to form a diamond shape.

13. (Original) The cover for a module of fibrous material as set forth in Claim 9, wherein said first and second side wall members each comprise a pair of generally triangular sections separated by the first and second gaps, respectively.

14. (Original) The cover for a module of fibrous material as set forth in Claim 13, wherein each triangular section of the first side wall extends from an opposite corner of the first side wall toward the first gap and wherein each triangular section of the second side wall extends from an opposite corner of the second side wall toward the second gap.